

**AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
JOINT TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
AND CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
ROOM 802, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, AUGUSTA, GEORGIA  
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2009, 10:00 A.M.**

**THOSE PRESENT:**

**Augusta-Richmond Co. Planning Commission**

George Patty  
Paul DeCamp  
Lynn Russell

**GA DOT – (Teleconference)**

Vonda Everett  
Karen Quarles  
Dave Cox

**City of Aiken**

Sandra Korbelik

**City of North Augusta**

Skip Grkovic

**Lower Savannah COG**

Connie Shade

**Aiken County**

Stephen Strohming  
Gerald Jefferson

**SC DOT**

Michael Dennis  
Jim Frierson  
Brian Fulmer  
Kevin Gantt

**FHWA**

Cornelius Davis

**Media**

George Eskola

**Columbia County**

Ronnie Hutto

**THERE WERE NO CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDING THIS MEETING.**

**1. Election of Officers.**

This item was postponed until the next meeting.

**2. Consider approval of the minutes of the joint CAC and TCC meeting held on November 12, 2008.**

TCC - Mr. Hutto moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Grkovic seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

**3. Consider a request from the City of Aiken to approve the following projects as Special Studies:**

- (a) Hire a consultant for a study of the Dougherty Road (S-419) Corridor. The total project amount of \$90,000 would draw \$72,000 from Work Element 4.13 "Special Studies" in the FY 2010 UPWP to fund 80% of the project. The City of Aiken would match the remaining 20%, or \$18,000.**

Mr. Jefferson and Mrs. Korbely presented this item. This is a one mile section of Dougherty Road from Silver Bluff Road to Whiskey Road. The City would use the right of way to construct turn lanes, curb and gutter, storm water management and possibly a basic level of service traffic study.

TCC – Mr. Grkovic moved to approve this project as a Special Studies Project. Mr. Strohminger seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- (b) Hire a consultant for a corridor study of SC Hwy 19 from Hampton Ave to Shiloh Church Road. The total project amount of \$125,000 would draw \$100,000 from Work Element 4.13 "Special Studies" in the FY 2010 UPWP to fund 80% of the project. The City of Aiken would match the remaining 20%, or \$25,000**

Mr. Jefferson and Mrs. Korbely presented this item. The widening of SC Hwy. 19 from I-20 to Shiloh Church Road (S-153) is in the Long Range Transportation Plan. The portion of SC Hwy. 19 from Hampton Avenue to I-20 is listed as priority #9 in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). SC Hwy. 19 This is one of the main entryways into the city and has experienced increased traffic volumes. The City would like to have the network study completed prior to this corridor study to determine its role on any future intersections that might be required.

TCC – Mr. Grkovic moved to approve this project as a Special Studies Project. Mr. Strohminger seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

**4. Consider a request from Aiken County to recommend an air shed boundary for the South Carolina side smaller than the Augusta –Richmond County MSA before EPA establishes new boundaries in March 2010. If this agenda item is approved, a letter of support will be sent to the Governor of South Carolina and South Carolina DHEC.**

Mr. Jefferson presented this item. This is a follow up to the CSRA Air Quality Alliance meeting held in October. The Aiken County side of the ARTS will submit a letter to SCDHEC prior to their recommendations to EPA. SCDHEC will submit these recommendations to EPA by March 12. Because the air shed monitor in Jackson is giving incorrect readings and is outside of the urbanized area, Aiken County feels this monitor should not be included in their determination of nonattainment for Aiken County

The state air quality agencies start by looking at the MSA and work down from that geography to determine the boundaries of a recommended nonattainment area.

TCC - Mrs. Korbely moved to approve this request. Mr. Hutto seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. **Consider an amendment to the FY 2008 – 2011 Transportation Improvement Plan and Long Range Transportation Plan by amending the Purpose and Need Statement for the proposed Silver Bluff Road widening project to include the term “corridor improvements as recommended by SC DOT. The new sentence should read: “Silver Bluff Road should be improved for Operational, Safety, Corridor Improvements, and Intersection Improvements...”**

Mrs. Korbelyk made an editorial correction – should read “corridor improvements” as .....

Mr. Jefferson presented this item. In a meeting last November with SCDOT a recommendation was made to include the term “corridor improvements” to avoid dealing with Act 114 requirements.

Mr. Strohming moved to approve this amendment to the FY 2008 – 2011 TIP. Mrs. Korbelyk seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. **Consider approving final FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (see attached summary).**

Mr. DeCamp presented this item. The draft UPWP was approved by the TCC and CAC on November 12, 2008. Since that time, the entire draft document was finalized and submitted to the federal and state agencies for comment. Most of the comments received were programmatic such as including additional language to reflect the outcome of the last certification review in September. Nothing impacts the overall budget or the general scope of the work elements. As you have heard there will be a lot of activity on special studies in FY 2010. The most significant studies will be the update of the ARTS Long Range Transportation Plan and the corridor studies in Aiken that we just endorsed. Other than the special studies, there are no significant changes to the UPWP.

Mr. Hutto moved to approve the final FY 2010 UPWP. Mr. Dennis seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **7. Update on Special Studies Projects:**

### **(a) Regional Freight Study**

Mr. DeCamp presented this item. The Freight Study is close to completion. Late last month the consultant submitted a draft for review and comment. The document is on our website if you would like to look it over. Several people have provided comments to the consultant. There were a number of corrections to be made. The consultant is in the process of making corrections from the comments received and should wrap this up by the end of the month.

### **(b) APT Transit Development Plan**

Mr. DeCamp presented this item. Next week there will be two public meetings. One on Wednesday and one on Thursday. The consultants will also be in town for a stakeholders meeting and to make a

brief presentation to the Augusta Commission. Onboard survey work is underway. The TDP is approximately 25% complete.

**(c) City of Aiken**

Mr. Jefferson presented this item. An RFQ has been issued for the North Side Traffic Study. The deadline for submission is next Monday. A local selection committee will review the qualifications of firms that respond to the RFQ and make a recommendation to Aiken City Council.

NOTE: If this study will run over to the next fiscal year (beginning July1, 2009), an amendment will have to be made to the FY 2010 UPWP and the funds will have to be rolled over.

**8. Update on Air Quality Initiatives**

**(a) Aiken County**

Mr. Jefferson presented this item. Aiken County did not submit an application under the Sustainable Skylines Program due to a shortage of funds and staff to implement some of the projects envisioned as part of the initiative. Aiken County is still looking at publications and other initiatives that would be more prudent to implement.

**(b) Richmond County**

Mr. DeCamp presented this item. Both State Air Quality Agencies should be making recommendations to EPA or scheduled to by the middle of next month. Representatives from both agencies are still working through alternative recommendations. Their recommendations have to be submitted to EPA around March 13, 2009. Both agencies are encouraging local governments to review the proposed recommendations and make comments either in writing, verbally or both in regards to the preliminary designations because over the next several months there will be a lot of back and forth between the EPA and various state air quality agencies with regard to the boundaries of any new non attainment areas. EPA will finalize the designations by March 2010.

We have an opportunity coming up shortly to view the recommendations and make appropriate comments. Related to that, another meeting of the CSRA Air Quality Alliance will be scheduled in April so presentations can be made by the state air quality agencies and have questions answered about nonattainment and related matters.

ARTS staff had a productive meeting with representatives with the Georgia Clean Air Campaign within the last couple weeks. The Clean Air Campaign now has a part time employee in Augusta to push their various programs. Today she is at the Kellogg's Plant on Marvin Griffin Road sharing with the employees' ways to get involved with the Commuter Rewards Program. They are under contract with GA DOT to provide services to areas in Georgia that are in non attainment or pending non attainment such as our region. If you know of someone on the George side that would like to take advantage of the Commuter Rewards Program Tanika's contact information is in the latest issue of the ARTS newsletter. Even if you have a large plant on the South Carolina side, commuters from Georgia

can take advantage of the programs. There are other programs the Clean Air Campaign has to offer that we will be taken advantage of as well.

Mr. Grkovic asked on the boundary issue, the determination of the boundary for Augusta Richmond County and Columbia County in Georgia, how much influence will that have on the boundary determination for South Carolina?

Both state air quality agencies are sharing information. The message being conveyed is that both Georgia EPD and South Carolina DHEC both want to keep the recommended nonattainment area as small as possible. Typically they start out with the MSA boundary, which in our case covers six counties, two in South Carolina and four in Georgia. They whittle it down to the area that meets the criteria leaving out areas that do not need to be covered. On the Georgia side, they are focusing primarily on Richmond County alone. They are looking at Columbia County because the monitoring equipment indicates that ozone levels are close to the allowable limit. There is coordination, but generally it is to try to keep it to as small an area as possible.

## **9. Status of Projects:**

### **(a) Georgia Highways**

Mrs. Everett presented this item. There are no major changes since the last update.

- William Few Parkway – a meeting is scheduled for next Thursday to make sure the project is on course for a let in 2010.
- SR 104 (Washington Road at Halali Farm Road (intersection improvement project) – The contract has been award to Beams Construction for \$915,795.
- Flowing Wells Road – The work on this project has been stopped. Communication is ongoing with GA DOT for the funding of this project.
- Alexander Drive – Out of 57 parcels, 30 have been acquired, 26 are pending options and one is under negotiation. The let date has been changed to August 2009.
- Old Petersburg Road / Old Evans Road (widening project) – all right-of-way activity has been suspended due to budget issues for transportation projects statewide.
- Wrightsboro Road - all right-of-way activity has been suspended due to budget issues for transportation projects statewide.
- I-520 from Gordon Highway to US 1 (Deans Bridge Road) – The Categorical Exclusion (environmental review determination) is under review and responses are being prepared to the Value Engineering Study.

### **(b) South Carolina Highways**

Mr. Dennis introduced Mr. Kevin Gantt with SCDOT. He will be taking over for Jennifer Hastings and Machael Peterson. Kevin has been working for SCDOT in the Greeneville area in Maintenance and Construction.

- **East Buena Vista Avenue** - This project has been surveyed. We are waiting on the survey for Atomic Rd to develop the corridor. Changes will be made to this project and Atomic Road. The corridor will be pursued together, still with separate PIN numbers to cover the entire corridor.
- **Atomic Road** - This section is being surveyed to add to East Buena Vista as a corridor improvement.
- **Silver Bluff** - (Indian Trail / Richardson) - Revisions to corridor intersections are being drafted. Public Hearing is tentatively scheduled for March.
- **Intersection Improvement** (Silver Bluff/Dougherty) - Plans are complete. Requesting Environmental Document.

(c) **Augusta Public Transit**

No one was in attendance to present this item.

(d) **Aiken County Transit**

Mrs. Shade presented this item. The LSCOG has been awarded a \$680,000 grant by the U.S. Department of Transportation under the Mobility Services for All Americans (MSAA) initiative. The award to LSCOG was one of only three made in the entire country. Camden, New Jersey and Paducah, Kentucky are the other two grantees.. The principal objectives of the MSAA initiative is to help consumers find transportation and to increase the efficiency of transportation service providers (public and private) operating in the six-county area served by the LSCOG.

Grant funds will be used to establish a Travel Management Coordination Center in the LSCOG office. A person looking for a way to use public transit will be able to contact the center and be connected with available transit services throughout the service area. Updated routing, scheduling and dispatch software will enable transit providers to coordinate services. Grant funds also will pay for the installation of automatic vehicle locators and data terminals on all transit vehicles. The MSAA initiative will help determine where the vehicles are, what the ridership really is, of riders and bring the transit system out there to the people who need it the most. In related news, Orangeburg and Calhoun counties will have new transit service on March 2, 2009

## 10. **Issues and Concerns**

(a) **Prior -**

Mr. Grkovic gave a project update on the US 1 / 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge project. This started as an earmark project and has been bid as a design-build project. There was a shortage of funds, so between the City of North Augusta and some private interests adjacent to the project it is now fully funded. The project

has been awarded and construction will start soon. This will make the US 1 / River North Drive a full interchange in all four directions.

Mrs. Korbely asked about what projects are on the list that will be presented for the stimulus bill that will be presented to the South Carolina Highway Commission on February 19, 2009.

Mr. Dennis stated there will be no comments until after February 19, 2009. Everything that has been submitted is on the list. SC DOT been going over the list for the last two weeks to determine what will make the 90-day window, 180-day window or the 545-day window.

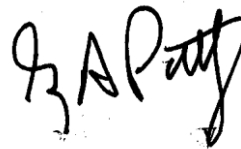
Mr. Gantt indicated that staff is working diligently to get projects off the shelf and "shovel-ready" by getting environmental documents and right-of-way ready to proceed on these projects. Staff is not at liberty to say what projects are on the list. ACT 114 gives the Highway Commission full authority. There are a lot more projects than funding. SC DOT is breaking out how the funds will be allocated with about 33% going to the resurfacing of local, state and federal roads, 20% going to interstate management; 5% to safety and 33 1/3% to the COGs and MPOs. A public meeting will be held after the February meeting of the Highway Commission.

The Committee discussed the Stimulus Bill and projects that might be eligible for inclusion.

**(b) Current / New –**

There were no current or new issues discussed.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. A. Patty", written in a cursive style.

George Patty  
Project Director